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**TOWN OF ENNIS GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION FINAL REPORT
2014-2016**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SERVICES BUREAU**

To the Citizens of the Town of Ennis:

The Ennis Study Commission elected by the voters on November 4, 2014 or thereafter appointed present this final report to the citizens of the Town of Ennis. There were two commissioners elected on November 4 and one commissioner appointed by the local governing body.


The purpose of the study commission, as defined in state law, is "to study the existing form and powers of our town government and procedures for delivery of local government services and compare them with other forms available under the laws of the state". If some change is deemed necessary, the study commission may submit such proposed change to the electors.

In the conduct of their review the study commission has sought advice and information from a number of people in the Town of Ennis. Opinions and recommendations were solicited from local government officials and community organizations. A Citizen's Input Form accompanied with the Town Charter and a return postage paid envelope was mailed from a Water and Sewer users listing. All meetings of the study commission were open to the public. Public hearings were held to determine citizen opinion with virtually no response. There was considerable response to the Citizen's Input Forms where data was compiled and evaluated.

As a result of discussions held with the people and groups mentioned and the evaluation of the Citizen's Input Forms the Ennis Government Study Commission has concluded that there is general consensus that the existing Self Governing, Commission Executive with Charter form of government has served the town well since its organization in 1976, and will continue to do so in the future. We therefore recommend no change in this form of government.

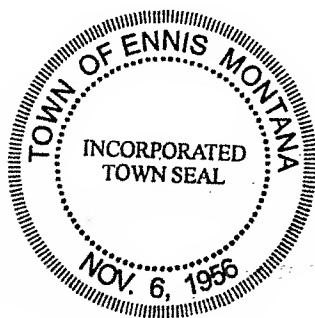
Respectfully submitted,


Commission Chair


Commissioner


Commissioner

Ennis Study Commission



Recommendations and Reasoning

We recommend that the town of Ennis pass a ordinance requiring all appointed and elected commissioners and the mayor to participate in leadership training at least once a year. The funds for such training are already allocated in the budget and there are multiple enities that provide theses trainings throughout each year ie:

1. MSU Local Government Center
2. MMIA " Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority"
3. Montana League of Cities & Towns

When commissioners and the mayor are elected or appointed and paid to perform their duties they need specific training in order to function effectively.

The study commission has concerns about the implementation of the amendments to the charter which were voted into the Charter after the 1994- 1996 review.

1. Article IV Elections and Nominations Section 4.02 of Charter: The procedure for holding regular elections and special elections shall be as prescribed by state law. Publication of notice of election shall be had in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Ennis by the Town Clerk , according to the laws regulating the election of local officials according to the provisions of the Montana Code Annotated. (Election, November 1996)
2. Article III Mayor Section 3.02 of Charter Powers and Duties of the Mayor (2) (p): have the power to form Advisory Councils and appoint members to Advisory Councils whom from and after June 1, 1997, all such members of the local Advisory Councils shall be bona fide residents within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Town of Ennis during the period of their service on said Advisory Councils. (Elect ion, November 1996)
3. Article VI Employees Section 6.01 of Charter Residency: From and after June 1, 1997, all employees of the local government of the Town of Ennis shall be bona fide residents within the boundaries of Ennis during the period of their employment by the Town of Ennis.

This requirement shall not apply to any employee: who has been recommended by his or her supervisor as having particular or special qualifications for employment; and whose employment has been approved by a super majority of the full council of the Town Commissioners. A super majority shall equal four (4) out of five (5) Town Commissioners. (Election, November 1966)

Due to the fact that the Charter takes precedence and has not been changed by another vote of the people (7-3-103, 7-3-125, 7-3-149), it is our recommendation that the Town of Ennis follow the letter of the law in regards to these issues.

Respectfully Submitted;

Sharon Christner
Gayle Schabacker
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